Immigration laws of UK

1158. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI SHANTARAMLAXMAN NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has amended its immigration laws and has made them harsher as regards the entry/stay of non-European Union Immigrants;

(b) whether it is also a fact that thousands of Indians have filed petitions in the courts of law of Britain against the new immigration laws;

(c) whether Government has taken up the issue with the UK Government;

(d) the changes that the Indian immigrants have challenged and the grounds of their challenged; and

(e) the details of the representations, if any, made by such immigrants to Government or to the offices of the High Commission in UK?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The UK has amended its immigration laws and has launched a points-based system (PBS) in 2008 to streamline more than 80 existing routes of entry into five broad categories for the non-European union workers. Each of the 5 tiers will have different conditions, entitlements and entry clearance checks. As a first stage, Tier-I of PBS for highly skilled workers has replaced the erstwhile Highly Skilled Migrant Programme (HSMP) and has been implemented in India from 1st April 2008. Tier 2 for skilled workers has been implemented from November 27, 2008. Other tiers of the PBS will be implemented by spring 2009.

(b) The Government has no knowledge of Indians having filed petitions in UK courts of law against the new Points-Based System introduced in 2008.

(c) We have urged in our bilateral discussions that the new system should not pose hurdles for Indian nationals to enter or stay in the UK.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such representation either to the Government or to the offices of the High Commission in UK has been received against the new points-based system of Immigration.

Achievements in Nuclear deal

†1159. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.